UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
SUPERFUND DIVISION
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

July 24, 2014

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Draft Risk Assessment for Falcon Refinery Barge Dock Area (AOC 4)

From: Brian Mueller, Remedial Project Manager
LA/NM/OK Section (6SF-RL)

To: File

Thru: Carlos Sanchez, Chief
AR/TX (6SF-RA)

EA Engineering on behalf of EPA has prepared a draft Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment for the Barge Dock Area (AOC 4) of the Falcon Refinery Site. As part of the risk assessment, EA installed and sampled monitoring wells and collected and sampled soils/sediments on and adjacent to the barge dock. After compiling and evaluating the sample data the risk assessments documented that the only risk associated with the barge dock is due to arsenic (60.8 ppb) in the groundwater above the MCL of 10 ppb. Arsenic was found at levels about the MCL in the wells adjacent to and on other portions of the site. Arsenic was at or below the Texas background criteria of 5.9 mg/kg in the soil samples taken in and adjacent to the dock area. The samples did not indicate the presence of other refinery related pollutants in the groundwater at or adjacent to the dock area. A review of aerial photographs taken prior to the construction of the refinery in 1979 indicates that a large portion of the site was previously cultivated. Arsenic was found above the MCL in the monitor wells sampled in areas that were previously cultivated and was found at levels below the MCL in areas that were not cultivated. Arsenic has been used extensively in the past in the cultivation of cotton. Based on the levels of arsenic in the soil and the past agricultural practices at the site, it appears that levels of arsenic in the groundwater are naturally and/or related to past agricultural practices and further remedial actions at the barge dock area will not be required.

cc: XXXX, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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